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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.41/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

61/230. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa,[1] and its resolutions 53/92 of 7 December 1998, 54/234 of 22 December 1999, 55/217 of 21 December 2000, 56/37 of 4 December 2001, 57/296 of 20 December 2002, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, 58/235 of 23 December 2003, 59/255 of 23 December 2004 and 60/223 of 23 December 2005, as well as resolution 59/213 of 20 December 2004 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on the plight of children in armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October 2005 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa,

Recalling the creation by the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, of ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict,

Recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

[2] See resolution 60/1.

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for support from the international community,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of African regional and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that despite the positive trends and advances in Africa, the conditions required for sustained peace and development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent,

Noting also that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system and Member States, and regional and subregional organizations, as well as international and regional financial institutions,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Recognizing the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development,

Underlining the need to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects on peace, security and development in Africa, and underlining also that the illicit trade in natural resources is a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflicts and the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4] including recent efforts in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding undertaken by African countries, African regional organizations and the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in post-conflict peacebuilding in a number of African countries;

3. *Also welcomes* the determination of the African Union to strengthen its peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations in the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, enhanced mediation capacity, including through the establishment of the Panel of the Wise, and the African Standby Force;

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[3] A/61/213.

[4] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

4. *Urges* the United Nations and invites other development partners to increase their support for the African Union in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness in the planning, deployment and management of peacekeeping operations and the advanced training to African peacekeepers, and urges the donor community to replenish the Peace Fund of the African Union;

5. *Welcomes* the commitment of international partners to support and strengthen African capabilities in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, including through financial and technical support for further development of the African Peace and Security Architecture, in this regard welcomes the continued support of the European Union to the African Peace Facility, initiatives by members of the Group of Eight, such as the Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capacities programme of France, the new initiative for consolidating peace in Africa under the Tokyo International Conference on African Development framework by Japan and the Global Peace Operations Initiative of the United States of America, and also welcomes the successful convening of the first Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which resulted in the adoption of the Declaration of the Beijing Summit and the Beijing Action Plan;[5]

6. *Encourages* further contributions by the partners, including through the existing forums of cooperation with Africa, to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa by strengthening the capacity of African regional and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa and the capacity for the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts, peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding;

7. *Calls for* a holistic and coordinated approach at the national, regional and international levels to identify causes of each conflict situation as a means to improve the effectiveness of conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in Africa;

8. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, particularly with respect to cross-border issues such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and emphasizes the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

9. *Welcomes* efforts to enhance practical cooperation, within the framework of an effective partnership, between the United Nations and the African Union in the realm of conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding in Africa, and in this context urges the United Nations system and the international community to increase, coordinate and sustain their efforts aimed at assisting African countries in addressing the full range of causes of conflict in Africa;

10. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing challenges which continue to hamper the achievement of peace and stability on the continent, inter alia, youth unemployment, the devastating social, economic and political impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

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[5] See A/61/580-S/2006/897, annex.

11. *Notes with concern* that violence against women everywhere continues and often increases, even as armed conflicts draw to an end, and urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to protection of and assistance to women in conflict and post-conflict situations;

12. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding;

13. *Notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, particularly the phenomenon of child soldiers, and stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts, post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education;

14. *Recognizes* the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General in Africa, and encourages the Secretary-General to use mediation as often as possible to help to solve conflicts peacefully, taking due consideration of the work performed by the African Union and other subregional organizations in that regard;

15. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the United Nations peacemaking support capacity through the establishment of the Mediation Support Unit within the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat as well as the launch of United Nations Peacemaker, a Web-based knowledge-sharing and operational tool;

16. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

17. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, encourages more African countries to join this Mechanism process as soon as possible, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African Member States and regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to improve good governance, including the rule of law and the holding of free and fair elections;

18. *Recognizes* the role that the Peacebuilding Commission can perform to ensure the national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict and that nationally evolved priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in addressing the root causes of the conflicts in the countries under consideration, and calls for the full engagement and commitment of all relevant actors to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission with a view to addressing identified critical peacebuilding priorities and issues through a coherent, holistic and inclusive peacebuilding process;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites Member States to assist African countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to build national capacities of governance, including the rehabilitation of the security sector, disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of ex-combatants, provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

20. *Stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

21. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the Expert Group Meeting on "Natural Resources and Conflict in Africa: Transforming a Peace Liability into a Peace

Asset", held in Cairo from 17 to 19 June 2006,[6] calls upon African Member States and regional and sub-regional organizations to assist African countries emerging from conflict in devising national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and urges the international community to assist in this process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance, as well as by renewing commitment to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries;

22. *Notes* the positive role the media can play in conflict prevention and resolution, welcomes decision EX.CL/Dec.215 (VII) of the seventh ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held from 28 June to 2 July 2005, as adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to establish the Pan-African Television Channel as a vehicle to mitigate the sociocultural causes of conflict in Africa,[7] and calls upon the international community to increase efforts to support the establishment of such a channel and to discourage hate media and promote responsible journalism;

23. *Decides* to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the aforementioned progress report concrete proposals for possible United Nations actions and plans in support of the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010.

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22 December 2006

[6] Available from www.un.org/africa/osaa/.

[7] See African Union, document EX.CL/Dec.192–235 (VII).